



Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

www.kansasdisciples.org

Vol. 127, Ed. 04: April 2023

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New Church Ministry

TBA, Regional Minister of New Church Ministry

We would love to connect with you!

Connect with us on

[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)



LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERING: SENDING WHAT WE NEED

Over and over again, it is powerful when people say, "We are so grateful that Week of Compassion is here for the long haul." As storms come, disasters occur, and global concerns persist, Week of Compassion engages with ecumenical partners closest to the crisis, providing collaboration and support for as long as it is needed. That long-term emphasis is where Disciples invest time, talent, and resources to transform communities.

Week of Compassion offers resources and training opportunities to help congregations prepare for and respond to disasters. Immediately following disasters in the United States and Canada, Week of Compassion works through local congregations and regions to provide guidance, connections, and resources for navigating disaster response. We invest the majority of our disaster response resources in long-term recovery, primarily for the purpose of repairing and rebuilding homes.

In coordination with Disciples and ecumenical partners, Week of Compassion also supports opportunities for Disciples to offer hands-on assistance. You can find all the details on our Volunteer page, www.weekofcompassion.org/volunteer, or by contacting Raiza Spratt, raiza@weekofcompassion.org, Disaster Response Organizer.

Long-term volunteers (LTVs) are a crucial part of disaster-recovery volunteer opportunities, trained to be the leaders on mission sites coordinated by Week of Compassion, usually for a month or more at a time. They are the liaisons between the week-to-week volunteers and our local rebuild partners.

Retiree Floyd Pearson, Hutchinson Park Place Christian Church, is what you would call a DOER - always has multiple irons in the fire, and willing to go most anywhere, so long as he will be put to good use. Floyd's strong sense of responsibility to care for our neighbors, and



his particular attention to those who are getting left behind, have made him a real gift to Week of Compassion. He has spent time connecting with Kansas and Reno County Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) to coordinate fire clean-up and recovery. Floyd says, "It's hard to learn that you can't fix everything for everyone. I have been blessed by the people I have met."

Steve Huston is one of our longest serving LTVs, and seems to know Disciples from everywhere! As a former educator, he has a passion for teaching new skills to volunteers. On his last deployment to Dayton, Steve shared photos of the work done by a very small crew of local individuals. He captioned the pictures simply: "God always sends what I need."

There is no time like the present. Train and serve as a long-term volunteer, volunteer@weekofcompassion.org. Week of Compassion is grateful to serve alongside and on behalf of the Disciples church, knowing that truly and always, God will send what we need.



THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

"Siblings In Faith"

BY TOM STANLEY, CO-REGIONAL MINISTER & PRESIDENT

I want to ask you a question, one I have been wrestling with, "What does God require of you?" The Prophet Micah writes these words to the people of Israel in Micah chapter 6. God is laying out God's case against the people of Israel. The people have sinned, they have strayed from God's path for them, and God is calling them to account.

This whole narrative speaks to me about the current situation in the life of the Church, in the life of our country and world. What does God require of us as followers of God's Son Jesus? How are we to respond to the issues of today?

I will be speaking at the Disciples Men's Retreat this year in September and this will be our topic. I am planning several sermons on this topic, it is more than a research topic, it is a question I feel like we MUST be asking ourselves every single day. Rev. Dr. Lisa Davison, the Johnnie Eargle Cadieux Professor of Hebrew Bible at Phillips Theological Seminary translated the words of the Prophet Micah this way:

"The LORD has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to make justice happen, and to love passionately as God does, and to remember that you are God's image in the world."

These words continue to speak to me, and they challenge my understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ in this world today. How will you live out these words? How will you make justice happen, love passionately as God does, and be God's image in the world? Each of these is more than a catch phrase, or bumper stickers, they are calls to action, calls to service, and calls to testify to who Jesus is to you.

Shalom,
Tom



REGIONAL CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Boundaries Training	May 20 Aug 26 Oct 19
KDW Spirit Fest	April 22 May 6
R3 Clergy Retreat	April 25-27
Junior Camp	June 19-22
Discovery/Primary Camp	July 5-7
Grand Camp	July 7-9
Chi Rho Camp	July 10-15
Pre-High Camp	July 10-15
CYF Conference	July 24-29
DCE Regional Gathering	Aug 12
Ministering to Children From Trauma Workshop	Sept 14
KDM Fall Retreat	Sept 22-23
Tri-Regional Partnership Church Narrative Project Event	Sept 29
KDW Fall Retreats	Oct 4-6 Oct 6-8
Tawakoni Gala	TBA
AOCC Workshops	TBA

YOUR GIFTS GOING BEYOND YOUR COMMUNITY

Your gifts to regional church ministries reach beyond your local community and connect you to Disciples across Kansas. Consider giving an extra gift to the ministries of the Kansas Region.

Kansas Annual Fund gifts support the general ministries of the region: leadership development, outdoor ministries, new church development, church transformation, pulpit supply, regional communications, and more.

Make a gift today through ENGAGE, CCK Store Donations Page, or mail your check to Christian Church in Kansas, 2914 SW MacVicar Ave, Topeka 66611.

Thank you for your support!

JOIN US FOR TOM'S INSTALLATION



Join us for the installation service of Rev. Tom Stanley, Co-Regional Minister and President, beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, at

McPherson First Christian Church, 101 S Walnut St. A reception will follow the worship service.

A livestream of the service will be available through the regional website, and the McPherson FCC Facebook page.

Rev. Dr. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President, will join us in-person to offer the message.

Tom was called as our regional minister in August 2022. Learn more about Tom at www.kansasdisciples.org/staff/.

Check us out on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

TRUSTING GOD

BY PASTOR RON STAIR,
HIAWATHA FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Do you know the legend of the Cherokee Indian youth's rite of passage? The youth's father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shine through it. He cannot cry out for help. He cannot defend himself from attack. He cannot remove the blindfold even to verify whether he is in danger.

Once he survives the night, he is a man. He cannot tell the other boys of this experience, because each boy must come to manhood on his own. It is important that each youth experience this part of life for himself. Each one must make this journey into the unknown.

The boy is naturally terrified. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beasts must surely be all around him. Maybe even some human might want to do him harm. The wind blew the grass and the trees making a rustling sound, but the youth sat stoically, never removing the blindfold. To remove the blindfold would bring dishonor and shame. To remove the blindfold meant that he would not be a man. Though he might be deeply afraid, he must keep the blindfold in place. It was the only way he could become a man. Finally, after a horrific night, the sun appeared, and he removed the blindfold.

It is then that he discovered his father sitting on the stump next to him. The father had been there all night, watching and protecting his son from harm.

We are never alone. Though at times our lives seem like an endless darkness filled with danger, we can be confident that God, our heavenly father, is right next to us. As Christians, maybe the biggest fear we have is the fear of being afraid. The Bible is full of passages that tell us, "Fear not," from entering the Promised Land, to returning to Judah after the exile, to angels appearing at the time of Jesus' birth. Yet, we tend to be fearful of many things. Remember, God is there for us, and we need to trust God. Even when we don't realize it, God is sitting beside us in the dark places, watching over us. So, leave the blindfold on.

HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Your church could be featured here!
Submit your articles and pictures to us.

We are always glad to receive your news articles and photographs for publication.

Submit your items by email at
messenger@kansasdisciples.org or online at:

[www.kansasdisciples.org/
km-submissions](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/km-submissions)

The *Kansas Messenger* editorial team reserves the right to edit all materials for relevance, tone, clarity, and space. Submission deadline for the next issue is:

Monday, April 17

JOIN OUR TEXT ALERTS SYSTEM

Get CCK news on your phone wherever you are. Sign-up to receive the latest CCK news and event information by text message.



There are three ways to join:

1. Text KSMESSENGER to 316-465-5352 and follow the on-screen prompts.
2. Go to our "News" tab at www.kansasdisciples.org/news. Look for the "Text logo" on the right-hand side.
3. Call the CCK Communications Office, 316-775-1236

This is just one more example of how your Communications team is working to connect you to the ministries of your Kansas Region. You will normally receive no more than one or two text messages per week as a part of this service. Standard SMS and data charges apply.

CAMP NEWS

NEEDED CAMP SUPPLIES

Have you been blessed by the ministry of church camp? Want to give back? Consider a donation of camp supplies.

Needed supplies include:

- Paper Towels and Toilet Paper
- Hand Soap (Refill Size)
- Bleach
- AA Batteries
- Window Cleaner (Refill Size)
- Heavy Duty Foil (Extra Wide)

Thanks, but save your money on:

- Comet Cleaner
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Napkins
- Trash Bags
- Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap
- Bar Soap
- Kleenex

Cash is always welcome!

Cash donations allow us to use our non-profit status to get supplies at discounted and bulk rates. Tawakoni also has several special projects including:

- Camp Security Upgrades
- AC Replacement Fund
- Jones Lodge Capital Campaign
- Camp Maintenance Fund
- Summer Camp Scholarship Fund

- Summer Staff Housing Rebuild
- Pennies for Mission Offering
- Challenge Couse Upgrades
- Lakefront Revitalization Efforts

Consider making a designated donation to camp online at: tawakoni.org/camp-donations/ or mail your check to Disciples Center at Tawakoni, Christian Church in Kansas, 2914 SW MacVicar Ave, Topeka 66611.

Check us out on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

CAMP NEWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SUMMER 2023 CAMP PROGRAM



Our summer camp season is not complete without our summer camp staff.

For the safety of our staff and campers, all summer volunteers and staff are required to pass a standard background check every year.

We seek the following:

- Directors
- Chaplains
- Counselors
- Nurses
- Maintenance Volunteers
- Photographers

Volunteers are asked to fill out an application including references, one being their pastor. A background release form will be emailed to you upon review of your application.

Apply at www.tawakoni.org/volunteers-staff or call 316-775-1222 for more information.

SPRING CAMP WORKDAYS SET FOR APRIL

Tawakoni spring workdays are April 20-22. Come help us get Tawakoni ready for the summer camping season. There is plenty of work for everyone. Meals and lodging are provided.



Here are some ways you can help!

Spread the word: Share this opportunity with your friends, family, and social networks. You never know who might be interested, and word-of-mouth is a powerful tool.

Bring a friend: Volunteering is always more fun with a friend. Consider bringing someone along to share the experience with.

Be prepared: Dress appropriately for the weather and the type of work you'll be doing. Wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes and bring work gloves if you have them.

Be open-minded: No special skills or expertise are needed to help. Just be willing to help out wherever you're needed.

Have fun: Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills, and have fun while making a positive difference in the world.

RSVP to Olivia See, revoliviasee@kansasdisciples.org, or call 316-775-1222 to let us know you will be coming.

REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR THE 2023 CAMP SEASON

Registration is open for the 2023 summer church camp season as we prepare for another wonderful camp season! This summer's theme is how do we have a FruitFULL Faith.



We are experimenting with a new online registration platform: RegFox. Our hope is that its simple strait forward design will make it easy for parents to sign up their kids while providing camp directors with all the necessary information for a fun and safe camp experience.

Churches that pay all or part of the registration fee will receive a report of campers who have signed up to attend camp from their church along with payment instructions.

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ALL CAMPS WILL CLOSE AT MIDNIGHT ON MAY 15.

After that date, you must call 316-775-1236 and register and pay by phone. Late registrations will only be accepted at Camp Manager's and Camp Director's discretion.

Register at www.tawakoni.org/2023-camp-registration or call 316-775-1222 for more information.

2023 Camp Dates:

	Dates	Scholarship Price	Full Price/ True Cost
Discovery/Primary (Grades K-3)	July 5-7	\$226	\$301
Junior (Grades 4-5)	June 19-23	\$356	\$475
Chi Rho (Grades 6-7)	July 10-15	\$421	\$562
Pre High (Grade 8)	July 10-15	\$421	\$562
CYF Conference (Grades 9-12)	July 24-29	\$421	\$562
Grand Camp (All ages)	July 7-9	Child: \$120 Adult: \$160	Child: \$160 Adult: \$214

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

TRAINING SESSION TO MINISTER TO ADOPTIVE, FOSTER AND KINSHIP FAMILIES

Mark your calendars and save the date for a special training event entitled, "Children from Trauma: Churches Ministering to Adoptive/Foster and Kinship Families" held Thursday, Sept. 14, from 7-9 p.m. via Zoom.

The workshop is hosted by Greg Rea, an ordained Disciples minister, a Trust-based Relational Intervention Practitioner and Post-Adoptive Support Specialist who has provided hundreds of hours of training/coaching to over a thousand families and professionals.

There are more than 6,000 children in "out of home" care in the state of Kansas. These children and families often struggle with their children's and teens' challenging behaviors caused by previous abuse, neglect or trauma. Evidence suggests that every Christian Church in Kansas is connected to families that are raising children from trauma.

For example, at the CYF camp in 2022, 25% of the campers were living with caregivers that were not their biological parents. This training will provide principals and strategies to equip parents and church ministries to care for children in a way that promotes healing in the hearts and minds of children

SAVE THE DATE:

KANSAS DISCIPLES WOMEN FALL RETREAT

Plan now for the Fall KDW Retreat to be held at Disciples Center at Camp Tawakoni, on Oct. 4-6 and Oct. 6-8. Disciples Women will enjoy fellowship, learning, and worship – all women are welcome. Come as we listen to Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President, as the worship speaker. Watch for registration information coming in June.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE DISCIPLES CONNECT AND EQUIP REGIONAL GATHERING



Save the date for the 2023 Disciples Connect and Equip Regional Gathering Saturday, Aug. 12, at First Christian Church in McPherson.

This year's special guests include two representatives from the Kansas Leadership Center: Ed O'Malley and Julia McBride. Other speakers and guests will be announced as more information is available.

The planning team is in formation. If you would like to help with this year's event, contact your regional office and a team member will help you get connected.

SAVE THE DATE: KDM FALL RETREAT

The 2023 Kansas Disciples Men's Fall Retreat will be Sept. 22-23 at Tawakoni. Our theme will be "What Does The Lord Require Of You?" and the keynote will be Co-Regional Minister, Tom Stanley.

Put these dates on your calendars and be praying for it. Registration will open the end of June.

CCK OFFERS BOUNDARIES TRAINING SESSIONS IN 2023 FOR CLERGY, LAY LEADERS

There are two more in-person opportunities for Boundaries Training this year: Saturday, May 20, at Tawakoni, and Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Topeka FCC. All in-person training begins at 10 a.m. and lasts until 3:30 p.m. with lunch provided.

An additional session by Zoom will be Saturday, Aug. 26, from 9:30 a.m. through 3 p.m.

Clergy, if you have not taken boundaries training since 2020, you need to do so this year to meet requirements for standing. Contact Juli Reed chp@kansasdisciples.org, in the Clergy Care Office, Great Bend, if you are unsure when your last training was.

Church leaders: if you have ever wondered about the standards of ethical behavior we expect of our ministers, please join your pastor for this one-day training session.

In addition to going over the *Ministerial Code of Conduct*, we will also look at another document, *Ethical Guideline for Congregations*, that sets expectations for how we hope church members will treat each other and their pastors in the life of the congregation.

The cost of this training is \$35 for clergy and \$10 for congregational leaders. Registration closes one week prior to the start of each session, to allow us to plan for your arrival. Late registrations will only be accepted by phone and at the event organizer's discretion.



NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

REGISTER TODAY FOR KDW SPIRIT FEST 2023 LIVING YOUR FAITH WITH CHRIST AS YOUR ANCHOR

It's not too late to register for 2023 Spirit Fest. Our theme is, *Living Your Faith with Christ as Your Anchor*.

Our first event will be on April 22 at Topeka West Side Christian Church. The second event will be held on May 6 at Wichita Woodridge Christian Church. Both events begin at 9 a.m. and conclude by 2:15 p.m.

Register online at www.kansasdisciples.org. Scholarships are available for those needing financial assistance. The registration fee of \$15 includes a box lunch and a morning reception provided by the host church when you arrive.

Online registration will close one week prior to each event. Late registrations will only be accepted by phone 316-775-1236 at the event organizer's discretion.



HAVE YOU TRIED ENGAGE?

This easy-to-use, mobile-optimized system allows you to give securely online, set up auto draft giving and view your giving history at your convenience. ENGAGE goes beyond online giving to also provide you a way to connect with others in the region through common interest groups.

You can also update contact information and register for regional and district events.

To get started, go to www.kansasdisciples.org/give and click the ENGAGE portal button. From there, follow the on-screen instructions to create an account or log into your existing account. If creating a new account, you will receive an email to reset your password and confirm the creation of your account.

After account creation, you can update your information, manage regional and district giving, and register for events all from one login.

REGISTER FOR THE 2023 REST, RELAX, RENEW CLERGY RETREAT

Hey pastors spend some time relaxing at Tawakoni and visiting with colleagues while also getting a chance to hear Phillips Theological Seminary's Rev. Dr. Andrew Carter.

Register today for this year's Rest, Relax, Renew Clergy Retreat on April 25-27. The retreat begins with dinner at 6 p.m. The retreat is loosely scheduled with optional activities, plenty of free time to wander around Tawakoni, to pray, or just relax, opportunities to visit with colleagues, and to listen to presentations by a noted theologian.

An optional pre-event golf fellowship or camp service project is being planned. If you would like to participate, sign-up on your registration form. The pre-event activity may be canceled if not enough interest.

Rev. Carter, is the Director of Black Church Studies and Assistant Professor of New Testament at PTS. He will explore the biblical texts that talk about slavery and discuss how those texts have been used to support racist systems and ideas.

His primary research foci are early Christian literature, approaches to biblical interpretation, and uses of biblical imagery in nineteenth-century Black Atlantic discourses.

As an added bounce, clergy will be credited with required ARPR training for standing by taking advantage of these presentations and Q&A sessions.

The event cost is \$70 for lodging at Tawakoni, meals, and the program, or \$50 for meals and the program. **Online registration has been extended through April 17.** Registration after that date will be accepted by phone, 316-775-1236, and at the event organizer's discretion.

Scholarship Money Available:

There is scholarship money available to cover up to \$25 for your registration. If interested, please contact Co-Regional Ministers [Ken Marston](#) or [Tom Stanley](#).

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

2023 EARTH DAY SUNDAY RESOURCES

Each year, Creation Justice Ministries offers Christian education materials to equip faith communities to protect, restore, and more rightly share God's creation.

The 2023 theme is "Sowing Seeds" and focuses on food systems, climate change, and regenerative farming. These resources include liturgies, action ideas, Bible studies, informational articles, and more.

Creation Justice Ministries educates, equips, and mobilizes Christian individuals, congregations, denominations, and communions to protect, restore, and rightly share God's creation.

GA BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

The General Assembly Planning Committee is pleased to provide three sessions of study for congregations around the motivation for our 2023 General Assembly theme. Your three sessions are the following: *Leaving Shinar* – Genesis 11:1-9, *We Don't Have to Wait* – Luke 17:20-21 and *Take Inventory* – 2 Peter 1:3. Explore them today!

Learn more and download your copy of the Kin Curriculum at: <https://ga.disciples.org/resources/>

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

TULSA RACE MASSACRE LECTURESHIP, AFRICAN ART EXHIBITION

Phillips Theological Seminary is pleased to present the 2023 Race Massacre Lectureship and Art Exhibition featuring the art of Harvey Johnson.

Bishop of Ecumenical and Urban Affairs Ret. Rev. Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath will deliver a lecture titled "The Destruction of Black Wall Street and the Burden of Invisibility" at Phillips Theological Seminary on Monday, April 24, with a reception at 5:30 p.m. and lecture at 6:45 p.m. Central.

Leath was elected and consecrated the 128 Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and serves in the 13



Episcopal District in Kentucky and Tennessee. Before his assignment to the Thirteenth Episcopal District, he served the 19 episcopal District in Republic of South Africa.

The art exhibition will be open to the public from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on April 25-30 with an opening reception Sunday, April 23, from 5-9 p.m. The show also features works by John Biggers, Delita Martin, and Kermit Oliver. Showcasing 24 works by African American artists, the show is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for the Tulsa community.



The internationally known artists are choosing to share their work for the first

time in reflection on the Tulsa Race Massacre anniversary. Both events are free but registration is requested. Register here: <https://ptstulsa.edu/lectures/>.

LTS OFFERS DISCIPLES HISTORY AND POLITY COURSE

This asynchronous course offered by Lexington Theological Seminary (LTS) covers the contours of Disciples' history and polity from our origins on American soil until today.

Course is offered May 1-27 and taught by Rev. Bernard "Chris" Dorsey. Register by April 15, 2023. Costs is \$25 Application Fee, \$30 Course Fee, and \$30 Tech Fee.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Rev. Bernard "Chris" Dorsey is an ordained Disciples minister. He is the president and CEO of Disciples Home Missions and previously served as president of Higher Education and Leadership Ministries.

He earned his MDiv from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and is a PhD



Candidate at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. He has served as Assistant Professor of Theology and Preaching at Western Theological Seminary.

He previously served as Senior Pastor at Woodlawn United Methodist Church in Chicago, as University Chaplain for Clark Atlanta University, and as the Vice President of Development and Marketing at Chicago Theological Seminary.

CLIMATE AMBASSADOR TRAINING OFFERED BY GREEN CHALICE MINISTRIES



Are you one of the millions of Americans who are growing more concerned about climate change?

As we witness and experience impacts on our health, livelihoods, congregations, and neighborhoods, we are increasingly looking for guidance on solutions from

leaders in our daily lives, including faith leaders like you.

Disciples Green Chalice ministry is partnering with the Blessed Tomorrow Ambassadors Program to offer training that will equip you with the knowledge, hands-on experience, and resources to speak and act confidently on climate change and solutions.

Blessed Tomorrow will join Green Chalice on a one-hour Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. (CT) on Tuesday, May 16, to reflect on and discuss the training, answer questions about the Ambassador program and resources, and share your climate story.

Join the Ambassador Program

With this training, and a cohort of like-minded leaders, you will be able to engage your community, the public, and policymakers to inspire climate solutions that help protect our families and communities now, and ensure a prosperous, just, and secure future. Register at <https://ecoamerica.litmos.com/self-signup/> with the code **DoCBTAmbassador21**.

The DOC Specific training can be done anytime online from any device. The 4-5 hour training can be divided up or experienced in one session as your schedule allows.

The Training Includes:

- Chapter 1: Program Overview, The Moral Case for Climate Action
- Chapter 2: Climate Basics and Impacts, Connections with Faith Values, Climate Justice
- Chapter 3: Climate Solutions, Faith in Action
- Chapter 4: Talking Faith & Climate, Developing Your Story
- Chapter 5: Bearing Witness: Policy Matters, Giving a Climate Talk
- Chapter 6: Getting Started as an Ambassador

We have offered six Live Ambassador trainings so far and would love for you to join the growing group of faithful people learning about a solutions-based approach to climate change. Email Questions to FaihtAmbassadors@ecoAmerica.org.

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?

Your gift can benefit your church and region for years to come. When you include the church in your estate plan, your generosity helps connect and equip future Kansas Disciples.

For information about bequests:

- Contact the Christian Church Foundation at 1-800-668-8016
- Email Kirby Gould at kgould@ccf.disciples.org
- Go to www.christianchurchfoundation.org.

IN TRANSITION

Randy Hill, pastor at Smith Center FCC retired from active ministry. He served the congregation for 11 years. His last Sunday was April 9.

Garden City First Christian Church interim minister **Shawn Fletcher** ended his ministry there and has moved to Colorado.

Hutchinson First Christian Church has called **Les Wedel** as their interim minister. He will begin on April 16.

In Indianapolis, **Rev. Dr. Jose Martinez**, a veteran leader of new church efforts assumed the full-time leadership role for New Church Ministry effective April 1. Rev. Martinez joined the NCM Team in 2019 and served as its transitional leader from January 2022 through March 2023. Martinez, who lives in Kansas City, Mo., co-planted Multi Nation Christian Church, the Midwest's largest and only Haitian Ministry for the Disciples of Christ.

IN CELEBRATION

The Kansas Region had the fourth highest return rate of ALEX yearbook reports from the 31 regions nationwide with 81 percent of churches in the region responding. Thank you for being faithful and diligent partners in this ministry.